

26. (New) A refrigerator shelf according to claim 13, wherein at least one of the plurality of coverpieces comprises or is adapted to receive at least one mean for attaching at least one additional element.

27. (New) A method of manufacturing a refrigerator shelf, comprising the steps of:  
providing a support panel having a plurality of corners and providing a plurality of coverpieces including at least one cornerpiece configured to cover just one of the plurality of corners of the at least one support panel; and

assembling the plurality of coverpieces onto the support panel so that the at least one cornerpiece covers just one of the plurality of corners of the at least one support panel.

28. (New) A method according to claim 27, wherein the plurality of coverpieces comprises coverpieces which are fitted one with the other over at least part of length and height of the coverpieces.--

---

#### REMARKS

Favorable consideration of this application, as presently amended and in light of the following discussion, is respectfully requested.

Claims 13-28 are presently pending in this application, Claims 1-12 having been canceled and Claims 13-28 having been newly added by the present amendment.

In the outstanding Office Action, the drawings were objected to because of informality; the specification was objected to for informalities; Claims 1-12 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, for being indefinite; Claims 1-4, 6, 8, and 10-11 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by EP 582,780 (hereinafter EP

'780); and Claims 1-8 and 10-12 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Clingman (U.S. Patent 2,956,705). However, Claim 9 was indicated as including allowable subject matter.

First, Applicants acknowledge with appreciation the indication that Claim 9 includes allowable subject matter. However, Claim 9 is presently maintained as new Claim 20 in dependent form, because Applicant believes that new Claim 13 includes allowable subject matter.

In response to the objection to the drawings, submitted herewith is a separate LETTER REQUESTING APPROVAL FOR DRAWING CHANGES, submitting for approval changes to the drawings. Specifically, the noted phrase has been removed from the drawings as required by the Examiner.

In response to the objection to the specification, the noted informalities have been corrected herein.

With regard to the rejection under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, Claims 1-12 have been canceled. Thus, the rejection under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, is moot.

Newly added Claims 13-28 find clear support in the original specification, claims and drawings. For example, Claims 13-28 are supported by the original claims and Figures of Applicant's disclosure and page 11, line 9 to page 14, line 39 of the specification. Hence, Claims 13-28 are not believed to raise a question of new matter.

Briefly recapitulating, according to Claim 13, the present invention is directed to a refrigerator shelf including at least one support panel formed of at least one of a sheet of glass and a sheet of plastic, the at least one support panel having a plurality of corners; and a plurality of coverpieces including at least one cornerpiece covering just one of the plurality of

corners of the at least one support panel. By providing such coverpieces, a support panel is fitted with the coverpieces regardless of sizes.<sup>1</sup> As a result, a change in panel size would not require the readjustment of the coverpieces' dimensions or its mold, thereby making the production of refrigerator shelves more economical.<sup>2</sup>

The outstanding Office Action asserts that EP '780 and Clingman disclose a shelf as recited in Claim 13. Nevertheless, neither EP '780 nor Clingman teaches a refrigerator shelf comprising *a plurality of coverpieces* including at least one cornerpiece *covering* just one of the plurality of corners of the at least one support panel.

EP '780 only discloses a combination of a cornerpiece and a side support piece for attaching a shelf onto a side wall of a refrigerator. The side support piece in EP '780 supports the shelf from underneath and does not actually cover the shelf on the contrary to the coverpieces recited in Claim 13. As such, EP '780 does not disclose *a plurality of coverpieces*. Furthermore, a refrigerator shelf according to Claim 15 includes the plurality of coverpieces each *covering* just one of the plurality of corners of the at least one support panel. Thus, Claim 15 further distinguishes EP '780.

Clingman simply discloses a framework for a cabinet, not a refrigerator shelf.

Therefore, the structure recited in Claim 13 is distinguishable from EP '780 and Clingman.

Because neither EP '780 nor Clingman discloses a plurality of coverpieces in a refrigerator shelf as recited in Claim 13, these cited references would not in any way

---

<sup>1</sup> Specification, page 11, lines 21-31.

<sup>2</sup> Id., page 1, line 11-31 and page 11, lines 21-31.

anticipate or, even the combined teachings of these cited references, would not render the structure recited in Claim 13 obvious.

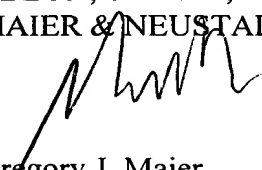
Likewise, independent Claim 27 includes subject matter substantially similar to what is recited in Claim 13 to the extent argued above. Thus, Claim 27 is also distinguishable from EP '780 and Clingman.

For the foregoing reasons, Claims 13 and 27 are believed to be allowable. Furthermore, since Claims 14-26 and 28 ultimately depend from either Claim 13 or 27, substantially the same arguments set forth above also apply to these dependent claims. Hence, Claims 14-26 and 28 are believed to be allowable as well.

In view of the amendments and discussions presented above, Applicants respectfully submit that the present application is in condition for allowance, and an early action favorable to that effect is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

OBLON, SPIVAK, McCLELLAND,  
MAIER & NEUSTADT, P.C.



Gregory J. Maier  
Registration No. 25,599  
Robert T. Pous  
Registration No. 29,099  
Attorneys of Record



**22850**

Tel: (703) 413-3000

Fax: (703) 413-2220

I:\atty\Aky\194112US6\194112US.amemodified.wpd



**Marked-Up Copy**

Serial No: 09/600,860

Amendment Filed on:

4-30-01

IN THE SPECIFICATION

Page 1, one line above the existing title, please insert the following:

--TITLE OF THE INVENTION--.

Before the paragraph beginning at line 4, insert the following:

--BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

FIELD OF THE INVENTION--.

Before the paragraph beginning at line 11, insert the following:

--DISCUSSION OF THE BACKGROUND--.

Before the paragraph beginning at line 32, insert the following:

--SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION--.

Page 9, before the paragraph beginning at line 37, insert the following:

--BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS--;

Please replace the description at page 10, line 3, through page 11, line 4, with the following text:

-- [●] Figure 1a depicts a diagrammatic view from above of a cornerpiece used in a first embodiment of the invention;

[●] Figure 1b depicts a diagrammatic front-on view of the cornerpiece depicted in Figure 1a, in section on the line A-A of Figure 1a;

[●] Figure 1c depicts a diagrammatic side view of the cornerpiece depicted in Figure 1a, in section on the line B-B of Figure 1a;

[●] Figure 1d depicts a diagrammatic view from above (in the functional position) of a shelf according to a first embodiment of the invention, using a cornerpiece depicted in Figure 1a;

[●] Figure 1e depicts a diagrammatic view from above of a shelf of smaller dimensions than the shelf depicted in Figure 1d, but which uses the same cover pieces;

[●] Figure 2a depicts a diagrammatic view from above of a cornerpiece used in a second embodiment of the invention;

[●] Figure 2b depicts a diagrammatic view from above of another cornerpiece used in a second embodiment of the invention;

[●] Figure 2c depicts a diagrammatic view from above of a shelf according to a second embodiment of the invention, using the cornerpieces depicted in Figures 2a and 2b;

[●] Figure 3a depicts a diagrammatic view from above of a shelf according to a third embodiment of the invention, part of a cornerpiece having been removed so as to reveal reinforcing elements;

[●] Figure 3b depicts a diagrammatic view in exploded perspective of the shelf depicted in Figure 3a;

[●] Figure 4a depicts a diagrammatic half view from above of a shelf according to a fourth embodiment of the invention, the shelf being symmetric with respect to the line depicted in chain line;

[●] Figure 4b depicts a diagrammatic side view of the shelf depicted in Figure 4a.--

Page 11, before the paragraph beginning at line 5, insert the following:

--DESCRIPTION OF THE PREFERRED EMBODIMENTS--

IN THE CLAIMS

Please cancel Claims 1-12 without prejudice and add new Claims 13-28 as follows:

--1. (Canceled)

2. (Canceled)

3. (Canceled)

4. (Canceled)

5. (Canceled)

6. (Canceled)

7. (Canceled)

8. (Canceled)

9. (Canceled)

10. (Canceled)

11. (Canceled)

12. (Canceled)

13. (New)

14. (New)

15. (New)

16. (New)

17. (New)
18. (New)
19. (New)
20. (New)
21. (New)
22. (New)
23. (New)
24. (New)
25. (New)
26. (New)
27. (New)
28. (New) --